

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6129**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1746

**NOTE PREPARED:** Nov 1, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Covenant Marriage.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Turner

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill defines "covenant marriage". It provides that a couple may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. The bill requires that a marriage license must indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. It also establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. The bill requires the State Department of Health to: (1) maintain records of covenant marriage declarations; and (2) develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage. The bill further provides limited grounds for legal separation or dissolution of a covenant marriage.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The State Department of Health (ISDH) has identified some minimal costs to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage and in creating the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. These provisions should be able to be implemented within the existing ISDH budget. The Department has previously estimated that this bill would require approximately \$18,095 to implement in the first year: \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions and \$7,095 for the first year and each year thereafter for additional printing and postage expenditures.

*Appropriation Background:* The ISDH administrative appropriations were made from the dedicated Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Fund for FY 2006 and FY 2007. Revenues from fees and penalties collected by the Department are deposited in the state General Fund with augmentation allowed in amounts not to exceed the additional revenue from fees or penalties received after July 1, 2003. The funding source of the FY 2008 and FY 2009 ISDH administrative appropriations will be determined by the General Assembly.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Department of Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Circuit Courts; Circuit Court Clerks.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.